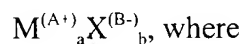


## IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Amended) A process for producing polyurethanes comprising reacting at least one polyisocyanate with at least one compound containing at least two hydrogen atoms which are reactive toward isocyanate groups, wherein the compound containing at least two active hydrogen atoms comprises at least one polyether alcohol prepared by addition of alkylene oxides onto H-functional initiator substances by means of multimetal cyanide catalysis and wherein the reaction is carried out in the presence of at least one metal salt of the formula



M is selected from among  $Li^+$ ,  $Na^+$ ,  $K^+$ ,  $Rb^+$ ,  $Cs^+$ ,  $Be^{2+}$ ,  $Mg^{2+}$ ,  $Ca^{2+}$ ,  $Sr^{2+}$ , and  $Ba^{2+}$ ,

X is selected from among  $F^-$ ,  $Cl^-$ ,  $ClO^-$ ,  $ClO_3^-$ ,  $ClO_4^-$ ,  $Br^-$ ,  $I^-$ ,  $IO_3^-$ ,  $CN^-$ ,  $OCN^-$ ,  $NO_2^-$ ,  $NO_3^-$ ,  $HCO_3^-$ ,

$CO_3^{2-}$ ,  $S^{2-}$ ,  $SH^-$ ,  $HSO_3^-$ ,  $SO_3^{2-}$ ,  $HSO_4^-$ ,  $S_2O_2^{2-}$ ,  $S_2O_3^{2-}$ ,  $S_2O_4^{2-}$ ,  $S_2O_5^{2-}$ ,  $S_2O_6^{2-}$ ,  $S_2O_7^{2-}$ ,  $S_2O_8^{2-}$ ,  $H_2PO_2^-$ ,

$H_2PO_4^{2-}$ ,  $PO_4^{3-}$ ,  $P_2O_7^{4-}$ ,  $(OC_nH_{2n+1})^-$ ,  $(C_nH_{2n-1}O_2)^-$ ,  $(C_{n+1}H_{2n-2}O_2)^-$ ,  $(S_{n+1}H_{sn-2}O_4)^{2-}$  where  $n = 1-20$  and

their mixed salts and mixtures,

$A^+$  is the valence of the cation,

$B^-$  is the valence of the anion and

a and b are integers,

with the proviso that the compound is electrically neutral.

2. (Amended) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the metal salt  $M^{(A^+)}_a X^{(B^-)}_b$  is selected such that:

$M^{(A^+)} = Li^+$ ,  $Na^+$ ,  $K^+$ ,  $NH_4^+$ ,  $Mg^{2+}$ , or  $Ca^{2+}$ , and

$X^{(B^-)} = F^-$ ,  $Cl^-$ ,  $Br^-$ ,  $I^-$ ,  $NO_3^-$ ,  $HCO_3^-$ ,  $CO_3^{2-}$ ,  $HSO_4^-$ ,  $SO_4^{2-}$ ,  $H_2PO_4^-$ ,  $HPO_4^{2-}$ ,  $PO_4^{3-}$ ,  $(OC_nH_{2n+1})^-$ ,



$(C_nH_{2n-1}O_2)^-$ , or  $(C_{n+1}H_{2n-2}O_4)^{2-}$  where  $n = 1-20$

and their mixed salts and mixtures, where

$A^+$  is the valence of the cation,

$B^-$  is the valence of the anion and

a and b are integers,

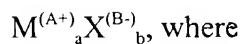
with the proviso that the compound is electrically neutral.

4. (Amended) A process as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the metal salt is dissolved in the polyisocyanate.

6. (Amended) A polyurethane produced according to any one of the processes as claimed in claims 1 to 5.

7. (Amended) A flexible polyurethane foam produced according to any one of the processes as claimed in claims 1 to 6.

8. (Amended) A polyether alcohol comprising the reaction product of H-functional compounds with alkylene oxides using multimetal cyanides as catalysts comprising at least one metal salt of the formula



M is selected from among  $Li^+$ ,  $Na^+$ ,  $K^+$ ,  $Rb^+$ ,  $Cs^+$ ,  $Be^{2+}$ ,  $Mg^{2+}$ ,  $Ca^{2+}$ ,  $Sr^{2+}$ , and  $Ba^{2+}$ ,

X is selected from among  $F^-$ ,  $Cl^-$ ,  $ClO^-$ ,  $ClO_3^-$ ,  $ClO_4^-$ ,  $Br^-$ ,  $I^-$ ,  $IO_3^-$ ,  $CN^-$ ,  $OCN^-$ ,  $NO_2^-$ ,  $NO_3^-$ ,  $HCO_3^-$ ,

$CO_3^{2-}$ ,  $S^{2-}$ ,  $SH^-$ ,  $HSO_3^-$ ,  $SO_3^{2-}$ ,  $HSO_4^-$ ,  $S_2O_2^{2-}$ ,  $S_2O_3^{2-}$ ,  $S_2O_4^{2-}$ ,  $S_2O_5^{2-}$ ,  $S_2O_6^{2-}$ ,  $S_2O_7^{2-}$ ,  $S_2O_8^{2-}$ ,  $H_2PO_2^-$ ,

$H_2PO_4^{2-}$ ,  $PO_4^{3-}$ ,  $P_2O_7^{4-}$ ,  $(OC_nH_{2n+1})^-$ ,  $(C_nH_{2n-1}O_2)^-$ ,  $(C_{n+1}H_{2n-2}O_2)^-$ ,  $(S_{n+1}H_{2n-2}O_4)^{2-}$  where  $n = 1-20$  and

their mixed salts and mixtures,

$A^+$  is the valence of the cation,